

Message Text

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AMCONSUL ALENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 9565

STATE FOR CU/CP; USIA FOR IEE; LENINGRAD FOR SHEEHAN

EO 11652: NA

TAH: GDS

SUBJ: EXCHANGES: CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS: COUNTRY MUSIC USA

REF: (A) STATE 129956, (B) MOSCOW 9293, (C) STATE 127588,
(D) STATE 117831, (E) MOSCOW 14940, (F) MOSCOW 15509,
(G) A-239 MOSCOW

1. EMBOFF MET WITH GOSKONTSERT REPS (INCLUDING GOLOVIN)
ON JUNE 19, RE COUNTRY MUSIC SHOW. GOSK BELIEVES IT CAN ADHERE
TO SEPT 12-OCTOBER 9 DATES IF ITINERARY CAN BE WORKED OUT.
GOLOVIN ACCEPTS IN PRINCIPLE ADVANCE VISIT BY TWO TECHNICIANS
IN NEAREST FUTURE. MAIN OBSTACLE REMAINS ENORMOUS WEIGHT AND
VOLUME TOUR PROPERTIES. IF 130 CUBIC METERS CANNOT BE REDUCED
CONSIDERABLY, PROPERTIES CAN ONLY BE TRANSPORTED BETWEEN CITIES
BY TRUCKS. RETURN TRANSPORTATION TO US NIGHTMARE GOSK COULD NOT
COPE WITH JUNE 19.

2. MOST URGENT QUESTION JUNE 19 IS HOW DOES DEPT INTEND
TRANSPORT COUNTRY MUSIC SHOW (PEOPLE AND PROPERTIES) TO USSR?
THERE ARE BASICALLY TWO VARIATIONS AS GOSK SEES IT:

A) YEREVAN IS OPEN, INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. IF ENTIRE
SHOW IS FLOWN DIRECTLY TO YEREVAN, ITINERARY COULD INCLUDE
FOLLOWING, BUT NOT RPT NOT ALL, CITES: YEREVAN, BAKU, TBILISI,
ZAPOROZHE, ROSTOV, DONETSK, VOLGOGRAD, KIEV AND POSSIBLE MOSCOW.
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B) IF SHOW IS FLOWN DIRECTLY TO LENINGRAD, ITINERARY COULD INCLUDE LENINGRAD, RIGA, VILNIUS, MINSK, KIEV AND POSSIBLY MOSCOW.

3. AS EXPLAINED REFTTEL B), MOSCOW SPECIAL CASE WHICH WILL HAVE TO BE HANDLED SEPARATELY. WILL ADVISE.

4. NEITHER VARIATION PARA TWO THIS TELEGRAM IDEAL FROM POST'S POINT OF VIEW. WE SHALL COMMENT IN DETAIL UPON RECEIPT AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIAL ON SHOW AS IT IS TO BE PRESENTED IN USSR. CONSIDERING INFORMATION WE HAVE RECEIVED (REFTTEL C), WE BELIEVE COUNTRY MUSIC WOULD SUCCESSFULLY SUPPORT POLICY AIMS IN NON-RUSSIAN CAPITALS OF BAKU AND TBILISI. IN ADDITION, WE STRONGLY URGE SHOW HAVE AT LEAST ONE EXPOSURE IN BALTICS OR ADJACENT LENINGRAD. POST STRONGLY DISAGREES WITH DEPT (REFTTEL D) THAT LENINGRAD BE DROPPED FROM TOUR UNLESS BALTIC CAPITAL SUBSTITUTED. WHILE NON-RUSSIAN, SOUTHERN REPUBLICS ARE HIGHLY MUSICAL CULTURES NOT RPT NOT FREQUENTED BY US PAGES, LENINGRAD AND BALTICS CONTAIN OUR MOST LOYAL YOUTH AUDIENCE BY FAR MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE (REF G) ABOUT US MUSIC AND MOST DESERVING OF OUR PRESENCE. TO BYPASS THAT IMPORTANT GROUP, AS WELL AS POSSIBLY MOSCOW, WOULD SEEM DEFEAT ORIGINAL AIM OF TOUR (RETTLS E AND F).

5. RE YEREVAN: WE WOULD TEND BYPASS BECAUSE 1) AS PERFORMANCE SITE, IS HIGHLY UNDESIRABLE; SHOW COULD ONLY BE STAGED IN PHILHARMONIC HALL WHICH HAS ABSYMAL ACOUSTICS (WALLS ARE CONVEX); 2) ODETTA JUST PERFORMED THERE BEFORE AT LEAST 3,200 PEOPLE; 3) "OUTDOOR RECREATION EXHIBIT" SHOWED THERE (DECEMBER 2, 1973 - JANUARY 5, 1974). MIGHT BE POSSIBLE, IF IMPOLITE, LAND IN YEREVAN AND TRUCK RIGHT AWAY TO BAKU OR TBILISI.

6. POST VERY MUCH REGRETS THAT WEIGHT/VOLUME OF SHOW MAY JEOPARDIZE ITS PERFORMING IN BOTH RPT BOTH NON-RUSSIAN SOUTHERN AND BALTIC REPUBLICS. WE CAN ASSURE DEPT AND OPRYLAND THAT PERFORMANCE SITES IN BAKU, TBILISI, AND LENINGRAD HAVE LARGE NEW HALLS WHICH CAN MORE THAN ADEQUATELY SUPPORT SHOW TECHNICALLY. FOR EXAMPLE, TWO-YEAR OLD, AIR-CONDITIONED LENIN CONCERT HALL WHICH EMBAOFF VISITED IN BAKU IN MAY HAS MOST SOPHISTICATED TECHNICAL

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EQUIPMENT EVER SEEN IN USSR OR IN WESTERN EUROPE. POST URGES DEPT REDUCE WEIGHT AND VOLUME OF SHOW SO THAT TOUR, AS ORIGINALLY CONCEIVED, CAN TAKE PLACE. MODIFIED SHOW IN OTHER CITIES WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE DISASTROUS. POST ESPECIALLY DOUBTS THAT SOPHISTICATED LIGHTING EFFECTS AT ALL NECESSARY IF SHOW GOOD ENOUGH TO STAND ON ITS MUSICAL QUALITIES.

7. WE ARE KEEPING JOFFREY ITINERARY IN MIND, BUT ONLY REALLY

CARE ABOUT EXPOSURE IN MOSCOW AND LENINGRAD FOR THAT GROUP.

8. ADVISE IMMEDIATE ON ACCEPTABILITY ARRIVAL YEREVAN AND DATES
OF VISIT OF ADVANCE PERSONS. STOESSEL

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